

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## Minotaur Rocket Successfully Launches From NASA Wallops Flight Facility

An Air Force Minotaur 1 rocket was successfully launched at 2:48 a.m. EDT, April 24, from NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

The four-stage rocket carried the Defense Department, Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) Near Field Infrared Experiment (NFIRE) satellite.

This was the second Minotaur 1 launch from Wallops in just over four months. The previous mission on Dec. 16, 2006, carried the Air Force Research Laboratory's TacSat-2 satellite.

"This launch again demonstrates the unique capabilities of the Wallops Flight Facility, which includes the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, to efficiently support the placing of satellites into Earth orbit. NASA is particularly appreciative of the support provided by the Coast Guard, Fish & Wildlife, Virginia Marine Resource Commission, and state and county security and emergency preparedness organizations," said Dr. John Campbell, WFF Director.

"Working with the Air Force, MDA, and their contractors, the preparation for this launch and the launch itself went very smoothly," Campbell said. "We are pleased to have supported this mission."

The next Minotaur 1 rocket launch from Wallops is currently scheduled for December 2007.



*Photo by the Wallops Imaging Lab*

## Queen Elizabeth II to Visit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center on Tuesday, May 8.

The tour of Goddard is occurring near the end of the queen's visit to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

Goddard is home to the largest organization of scientists and engineers in the United States dedicated to learning and sharing knowledge of the Earth, sun, solar system and universe.

The visit gives the royal couple the opportunity to meet 21st century explorers of new worlds.

The visit is indicative of the long history of collaboration with the United Kingdom, including the Hubble Space

Telescope and Solar Dynamics Observatory.

"NASA is honored to be one of the U.S. organizations hosting a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin.

"The United States and the United Kingdom have a strong partnership in space, from British-born mission astronauts who serve in NASA's astronaut corps to the numerous joint scientific and research efforts under way," Griffin said.

This visit follows a signing on April 19 of a statement of intent between NASA and the British National Space Centre, London that confirmed a mutual desire for discussions on specific areas of potential collaboration involving lunar science and exploration.

The visit to Goddard will include a presentation and reception with employees, a demonstration of the new Science on a Sphere visualization system, and a tree planting ceremony at the Goddard visitor center.

The Queen will have an opportunity to speak with the current crew aboard the International Space Station. The Duke will tour facilities used to build and evaluate satellites and equipment being prepared for space flight.

Portions of the visit will be carried live on NASA TV. Wallops employees also may view portions of the visit on the internal television system on Channel 7.

Not all of NASA's heroes fly in space....  
NASA Administrator, Mike Griffin

## Cinco de Mayo

Come join the Fiesta

May 3 at 5 p.m.  
Rocket Club, Building F-3

Lotsa Free Food and Drink  
Specials, Too!

For further information  
contact:  
Claudia Underwood at x1414

## Space Camp

Virginia Space Flight Academy's Space Flight Adventure Camp is preparing to take flight for another season of summer science fun.

If you know a student that is interested in how rockets and spaceships fly, aerodynamics, microgravity, flight simulation, extraterrestrial travel, and the role of radar, weather, and robotics, Space Flight Adventure Camp is the place for them to be, this summer.

For more info, visit:  
[www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org](http://www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org).



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of NASA retiree, Paul White, Sr., who died on April 17. White retired as an aerospace engineering technician and a pad supervisor on Wallops Island with over 42 years of government service. After retirement, he returned to Wallops as a shuttle bus driver. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## Wallops Mail Service Supports Official Mail Only

Do not place personal mail in the Wallops mail stream.

The Wallops Post Office is located in Building E-7. It is open from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

In addition, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) offers two mail drop boxes for your convenience. One box is located in front of the Post Office, and the other is located on the west side of Building E-107.

Employees working on Wallops Island should use the Assawoman Post Office located on Route 679, Atlantic Road for personal mail.

For more information, call Terry Ewell, at x1133.



## Wallops Shorts.....

### In the News

*NASASpaceFlight*, "Minotaur Finally Launches with NFire"

*DelMarVaNow*, "Wallops Spaceport's 2:47 a.m. Launch a Success"

*Virginia Pilot*, "Glitch Fixed; Rocket Launch Rescheduled for Tuesday Morning"

*The Daily Press*, "Eastern Shore Rocket Launches Successfully"

*Spaceflight Now*, "Missile Research Spacecraft Soars Into Orbit From Virginia"

*New Scientist*, "U.S. Satellite to Test Missile Defense Technologies"

*The Daily Times*, "Spaceport's Second Launch is a Success"

### On the Road

David Lassiter, Wallops Electrical Engineering Branch, served as a judge for the Eastern Shore Community College Science Fair held April 28.

## Earth Day

May 7  
11 a.m. to noon  
Project Support Building  
Auditorium



Tom Horton, guest speaker, will talk about growth on the Eastern Shore.

## Office Products Show

May 16  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Conference Room, Building F-3

For further information contact Linda Barnes at x1760.

## The Art of Negotiation

May 7  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Building E-2, Training Room

Identify and sharpen negotiation and communication skills. Discover and overcome the barriers to negotiation, learn why persuasion may not persuade, and learn advanced communication skills.

Register on-line through the SATERN system.

For more information contact Dan Krieger at x66-7931 or Rich Billger at x2394.

## Investment Day

May 4  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Credit Union, Building N-133

A financial advisor will be available to meet with employees on a one-on-one basis to discuss traditional and alternative investment strategies, asset allocations and portfolio review, and retirement planning.

There is no cost or obligation.

To schedule a meeting or learn more, call 1-888-627-2328, x650.

*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: [www.wff.nasa.gov](http://www.wff.nasa.gov)

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